

STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF ERIE

---

JANE DOE

Plaintiff,

v.

SUMMONS

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
795 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Index No.:

MARTIN ROTHCHILD

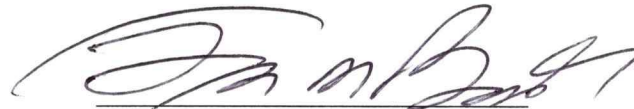
Defendants.

---

To the above named defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon plaintiff's attorneys a verified answer to the verified complaint in this action within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: August 14, 2019



Frank M. Bogulski, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
286 Delaware Avenue, Suite B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 649-0090

STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF ERIE

---

JANE DOE

Plaintiff,

v.

COMPLAINT

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
795 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Index No.:

MARTIN ROTHCHILD

Defendants.

---

Plaintiff, JANE DOE, by and through his attorney, Frank M. Bogulski, Esq. brings this Complaint against the Defendant and alleges that at all times hereinafter mentioned:

1. Plaintiff Jane Doe is a resident of the Village of Angola, County of Erie, State of New York.
2. Defendant Temple Beth Zion is a synagogue providing religious services and instructions in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie, State of New York.
3. Defendant Martin Rothchild was a Hebrew tutor and instructor employed and/or volunteering with Defendant Temple Beth Zion at the time of the at-issue incident.
4. In or around 1970-1971, when Plaintiff was twelve (12) years old, she attended religious instruction services.
5. During the time of the allegations more fully described herein, Martin Rothchild was working and/or volunteering as a Hebrew school teacher.
6. Through his position for the Defendant, Martin Rothchild was put in direct contact with the Plaintiff. Mr. Rothchild used the power bestowed upon him by the Defendant to sexually abuse and harass the Plaintiff.
7. Plaintiff was sent be tutored by Martin Rothchild, placing the Plaintiff in one-on-one contact with a pedophile.
8. From September 1970 and June 1971, Martin Rothchild sexually abused the Plaintiff for approximately nine (9) months, once a week.

9. Mr. Rothchild forcibly touched the Plaintiff without her consent and exposed himself to the Plaintiff.
10. At all times herein, Martin Rothchild was under the direct supervision and control of the Defendants.
11. The Defendant knew or should have known the inappropriate and unlawful sexual activities of Martin Rothchild against the Plaintiff.
12. Defendant knowingly condoned and/or covered up Martin Rothchild's inappropriate and unlawful sexual acts against the Plaintiff.
13. Defendant had the responsibility to supervise and/or direct the instructors serving under their authority, and specifically, had a duty not to aid Martin Rothchild in his unlawful sexual acts by consistently placing a minor, such as the Plaintiff at the time of the abuse, under his direct and sole control.
14. Defendants violated New York State Social services Law §413 and §420, which requires school officials and teachers to report suspected cases of child abuse and impose a liability for failure to report.
15. Plaintiff suffered both physical and psychological injuries and damages as a result of Martin Rothchild's actions, as well as other damages related to the incident herein.
16. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct described herein, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer both to her body and mind, severe and permanent emotional distress that has manifested itself in many negative ways throughout his life.
17. Plaintiff was prevented, continues to be prevented, and will be prevented from performing her normal daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life as a result of the abuse she has suffered.
18. As a result of the damages described herein, Plaintiff has incurred and continues to incur medical expenses related to counseling, therapy, and treatment, along with loss earnings.

**AS FOR THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:  
NEGLIGENCE**

19. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "18" above as if more set forth herein.
20. The aforesaid incidents and injuries as a result of and were proximately caused by the unlawful conduct of Martin Rothchild.
21. Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff to maintain a reasonably safe environment while she was entrusted into their care.

22. Defendant breached these duties, and as a result of the breach of care of the Defendant and the Defendant's other negligence, Plaintiff sustained the injuries, losses, and damages more fully described above without any negligence on the Plaintiff contributing thereto.
23. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant on its first cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS FOR THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:  
RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR**

24. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "23" above as if more set forth herein.
25. Defendant's employee within the scope of employment/service sexually assaulted the Plaintiff.
26. Plaintiff sustained injuries, losses, and damages more fully described above as a direct result of the conduct of Martin Rothchild and his employment and/or service under the direct supervision of the Defendant.
27. Martin Rothchild used the power and authority conferred upon him by the Defendant while doing the acts that caused the injuries alleged herein.
28. It was foreseeable that Martin Rothchild may exercise the power and authority the Defendant conferred upon him by engaging in illegal, careless, reckless, and/or other injury-causing conduct.
29. Therefore, the conduct of Martin Rothchild is incident to his employment with the Defendant so as to be attributable to the Defendant.
30. As a direct result of the Defendant's malfeasance and nonfeasance, Plaintiff was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing her normal daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life, and has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment.
31. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant on its second cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS FOR THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:  
NEGLIGENT HIRING, RETENTION AND SUPERVISION**

32. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "31" above as if more set forth herein.
33. Martin Rothchild, whose conduct caused Plaintiff's injuries, was responsible for ensuring the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of the Plaintiff.
34. Martin Rothchild was unfit for employment based on the nature of the job and the likelihood that an unfit employee would cause harm to others.
35. Defendant's hiring of Martin Rothchild caused the Plaintiff's injuries.
36. By accepting Plaintiff as a student and holding out the Defendant's establishment to be a reasonably safe environment for the growth and development of children, Defendant entered into an express and/or implied duty to provide a reasonably safe environment for Plaintiff.
37. At the time of the subject incidents, Defendant had actual or constructive knowledge of Martin Rothchild's unfitness responsible for Plaintiff's injuries.
38. Defendant's knowledge made the harm and injuries to Plaintiff foreseeable.
39. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant on its third cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS FOR THE FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:  
BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY**

40. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "39" above as if more set forth herein.
41. Through his positions in service to the Defendant, Martin Rothchild was put in direct contact with Plaintiff, then a minor student. Specifically, Martin Rothchild was assigned to the instruction, spiritual guidance and counseling of the Plaintiff under the Defendant. It was under these conditions that the Plaintiff came under the direct control and authority of Martin Rothchild, who used his position of authority and trust over the Plaintiff to sexually abuse and harass him.

42. There exists a fiduciary relationship of trust, confidence, and reliance between Plaintiff and the Defendant.
43. Pursuant to their fiduciary relationship, Defendant was entrusted with the well-being, care, and safety of Plaintiff. Defendant also assumed a duty to act in the best interests of the Plaintiff.
44. Defendants breached their fiduciary duty as their actions were reckless and taken in a manner that disregarded the rights and safety of the Plaintiff.
45. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant on its fourth cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS FOR THE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:  
BREACH OF NON-DELEGABLE DUTY**

46. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "45" above as if more set forth herein.
47. Plaintiff was a minor when placed in the care of the Defendant. Defendant was to provide a safe environment for education, spiritual instruction, guidance, and counseling.
48. This was a non-delegable duty of trust between the Plaintiff and Defendant.
49. Defendant was in the best position to prevent Plaintiff's abuse. Defendant was in the best position to learn of Martin Rothchild's repeated abuse of Plaintiff and stop it.
50. Because Plaintiff was sexually abused as a student, Defendant breached its non-delegable duty to Plaintiff.
51. At all times material hereto Martin Rothchild was under the direct supervision, employment and/or control of the Defendant.
52. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant on its fifth cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS FOR THE SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION:  
NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

53. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "52" above as if more set forth herein.
54. As described above, Defendant's actions were negligent and grossly negligent.
55. Defendant's actions endangered Plaintiff's safety and caused her to fear for her own safety.
56. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiff suffered the severe injuries and damages described herein, including but not limited to mental and emotional distress.
57. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants on its sixth cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS FOR THE SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION:  
BREACH OF DUTY *in Loco Parentis***

58. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "57" above as if more set forth herein.
59. Plaintiff was a minor when her parents entrusted to the control and supervision of the Defendant for the Plaintiff's education, training, spiritual guidance and counseling. Defendant owed a duty to students entrusted to them, like the Plaintiff, to adequately supervise and care for them to prevent injuries to their students.
60. Defendant breached this duty as they were reckless and negligent by disregarding the rights and safety of the Plaintiff.
61. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff suffered injuries and damages described herein.
62. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants on its seventh cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.


**AS FOR THE EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION:  
BREACH OF DUTY *in Loco Parentis***

63. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference hereto the allegations of paragraphs "1" through "62" above as if more set forth herein.
64. Pursuant to New York State Social Service Law §§413 and 420, Defendant had a statutory duty to report reasonable suspicion of abuse of children in their care.
65. Defendant breached that duty by knowingly and willfully failing to report their reasonable suspicions of Martin Rothchild's abuse of children in its care.
66. As a direct and indirect result of this conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages described herein.
67. Accordingly, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants on its eighth cause of action for an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of all lower courts and such other, further and different relief as this Court may find just, proper, and equitable, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment in against the Defendants in an amount which exceeds the monetary jurisdictional limits of all lower New York State Courts but does not exceed the monetary jurisdictional limits of the New York State Supreme Court.

Plaintiff further demands such other, further and different relief as to the Court may seem just, proper, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Buffalo, NY  
August 14, 2019



Frank M. Bogulski, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
286 Delaware Avenue, Suite B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 649-0090